

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A wireless headset for use with a base unit, said wireless headset comprising:
 - a headset circuit including an audio interface adapted to provide audio input and output and a wireless communications interface adapted to provide a wireless communications link with the base unit;
 - a sensor for asserting a sensor output signal in response to sensing a predetermined condition; and
 - a power control circuit adapted to activate at least a portion of said headset circuit in response to said sensor output signal.
2. (Original) The wireless headset of claim 1 wherein said power control circuit is adapted to activate said wireless communications interface in said headset circuit in response to said sensor output signal.
3. (Original) The wireless headset of claim 2 wherein said power control circuit is further adapted to activate said audio interface in said headset circuit in response to a link signal from said activated wireless communications interface.
4. (Original) The wireless headset of claim 3 wherein said activated wireless communications interface asserts said link signal based on detecting a signal from the base unit.
5. (Original) The wireless headset of claim 2 wherein said activated communications interface periodically monitors for said signal from the base unit.
6. (Original) The wireless headset of claim 1 wherein said power control circuit includes a resettable timer defining a time-out interval, said timer initialized to a beginning of said time-out interval based on said sensor output signal.
7. (Original) The wireless headset of claim 6 wherein said power control circuit disables said headset circuit upon expiration of said resettable timer.
8. (Original) The wireless headset of claim 1 wherein the predetermined condition is

a movement of said wireless headset, and further wherein said sensor is a motion sensor responsive to the movement.

9. (Original) The wireless headset of claim 8 wherein said motion sensor includes an output conditioning circuit for asserting said sensor output signal when the movement exceeds a defined threshold.

10. (Original) The wireless headset of claim 1 wherein the predetermined condition is placement of said wireless headset upon a user's body, and further wherein said sensor is a proximity sensor responsive to said wireless headset being proximate to the user's body.

11. (Original) The wireless headset of claim 10 wherein said proximity sensor is a contact switch responsive to contact between the user's body and said wireless headset.

12. (Original) The wireless headset of claim 1 wherein the predetermined condition is one or more physical orientations of said wireless headset, and further wherein said sensor is an attitude sensor responsive to the one or more physical orientations.

13. (Original) A wireless headset for use with a base unit, said wireless headset comprising:

a headset circuit including an audio interface for audio input and output and a wireless communications interface for wireless communications with the base unit, said headset circuit having at least three states including an inactive state, a sleep state, and an active state;

a sensor for asserting a sensor output signal in response to sensing a predetermined condition; and

a power control circuit operatively associated with said sensor and said headset circuit for controlling said at least three states of said headset circuit;

wherein said power control circuit holds said headset circuit in said inactive state absent said sensor output signal, and further wherein said power control circuit transitions said headset circuit from said inactive state to said sleep state in response to said sensor output signal, and further wherein said power control circuit transitions said headset circuit from said sleep state to said active state in response to a link signal asserted by said wireless communications interface while in said sleep state.

14. (Original) The wireless headset of claim 13 wherein said power control circuit remains responsive to said sensor output signal when said headset circuit is in said sleep state and when said headset circuit is in said active state.

15. (Original) The wireless headset of claim 14 wherein said power control circuit includes a resettable timer defining a time-out interval, said timer started when said power control circuit transitions said headset circuit from said inactive state to said sleep state, and further wherein said timer continues to run while said headset circuit is in said sleep state or in said active state.

16. (Original) The wireless headset of claim 15 wherein said power control circuit places said headset circuit in said inactive state upon expiration of said timer.

17. (Original) The wireless headset of claim 16 wherein said power control circuit restarts said timer, thereby preventing expiration of said timer, in response to said sensor output signal.

18. (Original) The wireless headset of claim 13 wherein both said audio and said wireless communications interfaces in said headset circuit are disabled while in said inactive state, and wherein at least a receiver portion of said wireless communications interface is enabled in said sleep state, and further wherein all of said headset circuit is enabled in said active state.

19. (Original) The wireless headset of claim 18 wherein said power control circuit enables said receiver portion of said wireless communications interface by asserting a first control output and enables the remaining portion of said headset circuit by asserting a second control output.

20. (Original) The wireless headset of claim 13 wherein said wireless communications interface in said headset circuit asserts said link signal while in said sleep state in response to detecting a signal from the base unit.

21. (Original) The wireless headset of claim 20 wherein said wireless communications interface periodically monitors for said signal from the base unit.

22. (Original) The wireless headset of claim 13 wherein the predetermined condition is a movement of said wireless headset and said sensor is a motion sensor.

23. (Original) The wireless headset of claim 13 wherein the predetermined condition is proximity of said wireless headset to a user's body and said sensor is a proximity sensor.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a wireless headset having a communications circuit and a control circuit, comprising the steps of:
disabling said communications circuit via said control circuit;
detecting a predetermined condition via a sensor disposed in said wireless headset and associated with said control circuit while said communications circuit is disabled; and
enabling at least a portion of said communications circuit via said control circuit in response to detecting said predetermined condition.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein said communications circuit includes a wireless communications interface for communicating with a base unit and an audio interface for providing audio input and output, and wherein said enabling step further comprises the steps of:
enabling at least a receiver portion of said wireless communications interface in response to detecting said predetermined condition;
detecting, via said receiver portion, a signal from the base unit;
enabling, via said control circuit, the remaining portion of said communications circuit in response to said detection of said signal from the base unit.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein said control circuit enables said remaining portion of said communications circuit based on said receiver portion asserting a link signal in response to detecting said signal from the base unit.

27. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein said enabling step further comprises starting a timer defining a time-out interval, and further comprising the step of disabling all of said communications circuit upon expiration of said timer.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27 further comprising restarting said timer, thereby preventing expiration of said timer, in response to subsequent detection of said

predetermined condition via said power control circuit.

29. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein said predetermined condition is a movement of said wireless headset and said sensor is a motion sensor.

30. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein said predetermined condition is a positioning of said wireless headset in one or more physical orientations and said sensor is an attitude sensor.

31. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein said predetermined condition is proximity of said wireless headset to a user's body and said sensor is a proximity sensor.

32. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein said predetermined condition is contact between said wireless headset and a user's body and said sensor is a contact sensor.

33. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a wireless headset including a control circuit and a communications circuit, said communications circuit having a wireless communications interface and an audio interface, comprising the steps of:

placing said communications circuit in an inactive state via said control circuit;

detecting a predetermined condition via a sensor disposed in said wireless headset and associated with said control circuit while said headset circuit is in said inactive state;

transitioning, via said control circuit, said headset circuit from said inactive state to a sleep state in response to said detection, wherein at least a portion of said communications circuit is enabled in said sleep state;

detecting, via said enabled portion of said communications circuit, an activity signal from a base unit while said communications circuit is in said sleep state; and

transitioning, via said control circuit, said communications circuit from said sleep state to an active state in response to said activity signal, wherein all of said communications circuit is enabled in said active state.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33 further including continuing to monitor, via said control circuit and said associated sensor, for said predetermined condition while said communications circuit is in said sleep state and while said communications circuit is in said active state.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein said step of transitioning said communications circuit from said inactive state to said sleep state includes starting a timer defining a time-out interval.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35 wherein said control circuit transitions said communications circuit from said active state or said sleep state back to said inactive state upon expiration of said timer.

37. (Original) The method of claim 36 wherein said control circuit resets said timer, thereby preventing its expiration, in response to detecting said predetermined condition during said continued monitoring.

38. (Original) The method of claim 33 wherein said predetermined condition is a movement of said wireless headset and said sensor is a motion sensor.

39. (Original) The method of claim 33 wherein said predetermined condition is a positioning of said wireless headset in one or more physical orientations and said sensor is an attitude sensor.

40. (Original) The method of claim 33 wherein said predetermined condition is proximity of said wireless headset to a user's body and said sensor is a proximity sensor.

41. (Original) The method of claim 33 wherein said predetermined condition is contact between said wireless headset and a user's body and said sensor is a contact sensor.